



# LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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February 26, 2019

Dear Speaker Busch,

The month of February marks the commemoration of Black History Month. Astoundingly, racial transgressions have been a staggering theme in a month which celebrates the rich history, culture, and progressions of African-Americans. The blatant act of racism by Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti has blanketed a time where we should be recognizing achievements in the African-American community.

African-Americans make up nearly thirty-percent of Maryland's population. The Maryland General Assembly is comprised of fifty-seven African American legislators; the most in our state's history. Although we have made tremendous strides as African-Americans, we will not tolerate any form of discrimination.

On Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, the executive leadership of the Legislative Black Caucus met with Delegate Lisanti to discuss her condescending reference to the "N-word" when describing a predominately black district in the state. While Delegate Lisanti did provide an apology for her bold and offensive actions, as a Caucus, we feel as though her apology is woefully inadequate.

It is clear that Delegate Lisanti is unsuited to continue in a position of leadership in the Maryland General Assembly. We have been receiving calls for her resignation, removal of subcommittee chairmanship, and to be censured on the House floor. We are asking the Speaker to move swiftly in reprimanding her in a disciplinary manner. The use of a derogatory term exhibits that she does not hold the requisite contrition to be entrusted in a leadership role moving forward.

Lastly, the Legislative Black Caucus is requesting that Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti be mandated to participate in a Racial Sensitivity Training. As a civil servant in the Maryland General Assembly, Delegate Lisanti must be conscious of appropriate racial tolerance and be an advocate for all citizens of the State of Maryland. We hope that Delegate Lisanti can learn from her offensive actions through this sensitivity training.

Respectfully,

  
Delegate Darryl Barnes, Chairman